

George Wagner House
Cambria City Neighborhood
418 Broad Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5752

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE WAGNER HOUSE

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Location: 418 Broad Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Small two-story, three-bay single-family house. Rectangular plan, 22' x 28'. Wood-frame structure on stone basement. Horizontal wood siding. Architraved flat-headed windows throughout. Side-gable roof.

History: This house was probably built in about 1865, when George Wagner was listed in the tax assessment as owning a house on half a lot in Cambria Borough. In 1869 he was noted in the city directory as a laborer living on Broad Street. In the directory for 1876 he is listed as working for the Cambria Iron Company.

The 1880 census records George Wagner as a 50-year-old German, married with seven children. He had been in America since 1853. The children, aged between 3 and 19, were all born in Pennsylvania. His eldest sons were working in the coal mines and steel mill. The 1889 directory notes that all the family living at 418 Broad Street survived the flood.

This building is noted on the 1886 Sanborn map as 104 Broad Street. In the 1891 Sanborn it is noted as no. 418 and at that period there was an oven in the back yard. By 1895 the oven was gone.

In 1919 Anna Ritter, a daughter of George Wagner, inherited the property. It is still in her family.

Sources:

Deed Records (439:157, 439:157, 1145:294), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directory, 1869, 1876, 1889.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1886, 1891, 1895.

Tax assessment records, Johnstown, 1895; Cambria Borough, 1864, 1865. Tax assessment card, no.86-001-315.000 Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 1880, 1900.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.